

NASHVILLE intelligence report

issue
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OWN RISK

Hello Friends

News + views
Review

And you may find yourself living in Nashville, Tennessee
And you may find yourself wishing to be in another part of the world
And you may find yourself under the squeal of a large automobile
And you may find yourself sitting bored in your beautiful house, with your beautiful wife
And you may ask yourself--- What the hell is wrong here?

And with that somewhat depressing paraphrasing of Talking Heads we kick off our first (of hopefully many more) issue of the NASHVILLE INTELLIGENCE REPORT. In case you haven't figured it out yet, this is a fanzine designed to try to help those with similar interests in music, culture, and lifestyles keep up with each other and the scene (such as it is) here in Na\$h Vega\$. My goal in putting together this drival and meandering is to fill a void. And as anyone who lives here knows, there are a lot of voids in this city. Don't get me wrong, there's a lot of good people in this town, and I know I've had many good times with them at various parties and at various clubs seeing various bands. But let's face it, things could be a helluva lot better than they are now. My two biggest gripes are with the clubs and the concerts (or lack of them). Let's start with the easy target--the concerts.

You can count on one raised middle finger the number of "new wave" (a term used for lack of a better one) performers who are big and touring who have played here this year. That one brave soul was Elvis Costello who played a standout 2½ hour plus show at the Opry at the beginning of January. Since then--nadda. There haven't even been any good mainstream performers come to grace us with their presence since Ricki Lee Jones whose show at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center thrilled a diverse crowd and exceeded my wildest expectations. Both Elvis and Ricki Lee drew very respectable crowds and proved that people in this town will pay for the tickets, turn out en mass, and support decent, intelligent music. But the promoters haven't gotten the message. They still don't book anyone here but country, MOR, heavy (to the point of nauseating) metal, and Southern rock which makes me ashamed to tell people where I'm from. The Cars, the Police, the Go Go's, Nick Lowe, the B-52's, the Clash, and Joan Jett have all played Atlanta, North Carolina, Memphis, and even occasional Knoxville dates and done well for themselves and the promoters. Undoubtably we could lure them here on their way North or West if someone would just try. Most of the above get decent radio airplay and most have had Top Forty hits. I KNOW people (yes, even the teenyboppers and heavy metal heads) would turn out for them if they came to town because they're new and popular acts. Let us all hope a promotor reads the above and takes it to heart.

Now on to the clubs... To be honest, the new music and club scene in Nashville has suprised me a great deal. I came here expecting to find nothing and instead found many good bands, good people, and a few clubs that were willing to try to attract both. This isn't Atlanta or Athens, but for the South Nashville does all right when the clubs try. The trouble is that they just don't seem to try all that often. I guess the owners figure we just won't turn out consistantly enough for them to take chances with their atmosphere, bookings, and profit margins. Since the demise of Phrank 'n Steins no club has tried to cater to the new music crowd on a night-to-night basis. Even if it's too expensive to book bands every night, I think a club with the right attitude, given time, could attract a good crowd consistantly by featuring good new dance music, new wave videos on wide screen, local bands, and touring groups on the up-and-coming like R.E.M., Pylon, Love Tractor, the Brains, Fleshtones, etc.. We need a place where we can go any night of the week and be assured of seeing old friends, making new ones, hearing good music, and having fun!!! Until then, though, we'll have to make do with what we've got (thank God Cantrell's wasn't shut down for good) and encourage those local clubs that do take chances and book new wave bands to do more of it by turning out and making our presence felt whenever they do book somebody good, be they local or out-of-town. PLEASE, no more disasters like having Cantrell's book somebody great like the BONGOS (#1 unsigned band in NY Rocker's reader's poll) and then only having 50 people show up. Poor turnouts for good bands hurt us and the bands and make it that much harder for anyone doing something new and different to get booked. We get few enough good out-of-town bands here in the first place; let's not disappoint those that do come...

We'll continue on the other side on a much more positive note.

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After checking around with the clubs and finding out what's going to be happening in town the rest of the month, I'm almost ready to take back all the semi-nasty things I said on the other side of the page. If you've got money, there'll be plenty of things to spend it on...

Ringside Seat has BLUE JAZZ this Saturday(12th). Interesting name but I haven't heard anything about them. Sunday the 13th is decision time: FALLEN ANGELS at Ringside Seat, MOURNING AFTER(see below for comments) at Cantrell's, and the INSECT SURFERS(modern garage rock from Washington, D.C.) at Spanky's. Talk about freedom of choice!! If you want to go out next Wednesday(16th) you can see FACSIMILE(Top 40 cover band with some new wave songs) or ADONAS(since my Mother always told me "If you can't say anything nice about someone don't say anything at all." I won't give you my opinion of this band) at the Ringside Seat. I'm staying home and saving my money for Friday nite(18th) at Spanky's. Another World Hunger Benefit with RUSSIAN ROULETTE, the BUNNYS, MERCINARIES, and Nashville's premier pop band, the MOST. It'll definately be a good time for a good cause so come on down! Saturday(19th) will see the return to Nashville of GUADACANAL DIARY from Atlanta. Sunday(20th) everyone should muster up their energy and get down to Cantrell's for the debute preformances of two new bands: CHILDREN OF NOISE(who've got to be at least interesting with a name like that) and BOOPIN' 88'S(whose propaganda describes them as "50's rock-a-billy muzik). ONYX will be at the Ringside Seat. On Friday(25th) I'll probably be back at Spanky's to check out the COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY's first-ever gig, as well as hear MOURNING AFTER and CHILDREN OF NOISE again. That same night and the following one, CRIME returns from Memphis for two shows at Cantrell's. Sometime the week after that ROOSTER AND THE RED TOPS from Atlanta(who I've never heard of before) will be at Spanky's. On Saturday, July 3rd, Spanky's will once again host the TIMES. There'll probably be lots of other bands here and there that aren't mentioned here as we come down to deadline time, so keep your eyes and ears open...I do hope that there'll be good turnouts at these shows. The manager of Spanky's put it on the line; they'll keep booking new music groups as long as the people keep comming out to see them, and as often as people demand by their patronage. Bruce from K.O. Jams(R.I.P.) is helping out with the booking so look for good things. The manager also said any local groups wishing to play Spanky's during the week solely for what they take in at the door should get in touch with him to see what can be worked out. He also stressed that the Writer's Night every Tuesday is not limited solely to country musicians with their guitars and encourages everyone to try for the big money(\$200)...And if that isn't enough(and by golly, don't you think it ought to be?) the Sinking Creek Film Celebration will be at Vanderbilt's Sarratt Center June 15-19. The main attraction will undoubtably be the always fantastic array of independent films that will be showing, but there will also be a series of film workshops. Tickets are \$1.50 for the day shows and \$3.00 for the night. More information is as close as 322-8577.

The hottest group around Nashville at this moment(even though they tour constantly) is wildman JASON AND THE NASHVILLE SCORCHERS. Since their humble beginnings in September, the SCORCHERS have jelled into a tight group who's unique blend of country and good old time rock 'n roll along with JASON's crazy antics are guaranteed to get any crowd dancing. If you haven't bought their new PARAXIS "Reckless Country Soul" EP you don't know what you're missing! The whole thing was cut live in Jack Emerson's living room and features two covers, "These Women(Make A Fool Out-Of Me)" and the group's show-stopping version of Hank William's "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry", as well as favorite originals: "Broken Whiskey Glass" and "Shot Down Again". Production and sound quality are excellent. Record and group are getting a lot of airplay and distribution around the country along with critical raves(like the one in this month's NY Rocker). They'll be in town at Cantrell's on Saturday, July 10, but if you can't wait till then, you might want to head down to Hot 'lanta on June 26th and catch the SCORCHERS at the fabulous 688 club when they open for the CIRCLE JERKS. Should be good...

The best new group in Nashville at this moment for my money is MOURNING AFTER. Consisting of Barry and Gary from NO ART(which is no more) on drums and guitar respectively with Mike (formerly of FACTUAL) on bass, this trio blew me(and the 10 other fortunate souls who were lucky enough to be there) away when they debuted at the Cannery May 28th. Loud, fast, tight with excellent originals; what more could you want? Not to be missed by any means...

The long awaited release of THE LONDON SIDE OF NASHVILLE album is eminent. The album features local faves the HOTS, FACTUAL, the MOST, PARADOX, RUSSIAN ROULETTE, B.B. GUNN, and ADONAS along with the RAVES from Atlanta. The album was produced by Neal Jeffrys, Executive Producer Zak Silver, and was recorded here at Pollyfox Studios. Those who have heard the tracks tell me it should be a real killer. Videos to promote the album and a possible tour are in the works. I've been told if everything goes right we'll be able to begin sending it up the album charts within the next week, so keep your eyes open when you go shopping..

!!!!R.E.M. has signed with I.R.S. records and a 12" EP is planned for the end of July!!!!

(Editor's note-- the following is by a fellow contributor to the scene who would rather remain anonymous and will identify herself only by her lip-prints. Reprinted verbatim.) ...Listen to Augustus Pablo, Love Tractor, REM, Souixsie & Budgie, the Bush Tetras, the Bongos for fun and dancing, Jason & the Scorchers, Afrikan Dreamland on a great night at Goodies sets me dancing ecstaticly...stay clear of the Now Explosion (I liked 'em--Ed.)... the Piggys are tight, musically sound a good band to get drunk to...I want to see and hear a live Dead Seals preformance...I like a couple of songs on the new Squeese LP...I need money! For anyone interested in investing in a band contact the publisher of this news sheet... the Most are mostly pop. Les how can you sing such neat falsetto being so tall? I love your songs.. When do we get to hear the London Side Of Nashville?..Almost four months here,

NASHVILLE INTELLIGENCE REPORT
2108 Hayes Street, # 411-
Nashville, TN, 37203

Editor, Publisher, Etc. - Andy Anderson
contributions (artistic & financial) are
are then welcome. To get our next exciting
letter

the weather is great. I have never met such
fascinating, psychotic, creative humunoids.
sick jokes, a songwriter behind and in
from of every bar. Films, video, & Elliston
Sq. People from all my homes...and when is
Elvis Costello comming back to Nashville?